**NORTH CHAIN LAKE ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes**

**Saturday, September 13, 2025**

**Occasions Center, Coldwater, Michigan**

The meeting of the North Chain Lake Association was called to order by President, Tom Duff at 10:01 am

at the Occasions Center, Coldwater, MI.

**NCLA Board Members** included:

**Past President:** Terry Reen present
**President:** Tom Duff present

**Vice President:** Carl Murdock (appointed 1 year) present

**Secretary:** Carolyn Morrison present
**Treasurer:**  Colleen Humphrey absent

**Director:** Tom Humphrey absent
**Director:** Mike Delwiche (appointed by the Board to replace Joe Alexander for 1 year) present
**Director:** Frank Russo present

**Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes** (May 13, 2025) distributed and emailed:Minutes accepted and on file.

**Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report:**

In the absence of Treasurer Colleen Humphrey, the Treasurer’s report was presented with copies as follows:

Beginning Balance: $7,440.49

Income Collected Dues $ 70.00

Expenses: $1,381.50

Ending Balance: $6,628.99

The report was accepted and is on file.

**SPECIAL REPORTS:**

**Collection Geese eggs:** Tom introduced President Dennis Smith from the Marble Lakes Chain Association. He presented information on collecting goose eggs. A permit is needed and obtained in January by watching a video from the DNR and becoming certified. It is a five-year permit. The video demonstrates how to collect the eggs. Townships must make resolutions for this. A copy is attached. The third week of March through the first week of May are the weeks for collecting eggs. In 2024, 269 eggs were collected and in 2025 466 eggs were collected by Dennis. This might be the state record. Permission from property owners must be obtained to remove eggs and nests. Nancy Murdock made a motion, and Terry Reen seconded the motion to pursue this project. The motion was passed with one abstention. Carl will oversee this project for the NCLA.

 To keep geese off your property, have an eight-foot natural, native plants area. Use green fishing line at the rock or seawall edge. Define your beach area with noodles strung on rope. Geese do not like crossing these barriers.

**Weed Program:** Paul Hausler, Progressive Engineering, reported that the weed program is recommended by our Association, but it is the Branch County Lake Board that oversees it. The Townships and City hire the company and assess property owners, not the NCLA. We can only recommend a weed program. In 2026, hearings will take place with implementation if approved in 2027 for $180,000. Front Lake property is accessed with full share, back property lot, a half share and campground lots, a 10th share. This is a five-year program. This year Luke Aaron from Progressive oversaw the program.

(NCLA minutes, September 13, 2025)

 Weeds killed are invasive Eurasian milfoil, Curly-leaf pondweed and Starry stonewort. They are watching native wild celery as it creates dense mats which raise concerns for navigation and recreational activities in affected water bodies. Flyers were provided and are attached. A Project Work Journal was also shared and is attached. One harvest was done this season with 5 chemical treatments.

 The EPA certifies chemicals used on lakes. Studies show that fish pollution is in balance now. Lawn fertilizers, farm run off with fertilizers and animal waste, and leaking septic systems also add to weed growth in lakes. A dye can be put in your septic system to see if your system is leaking into the lakes. This is very probable with older homes and cottages. The Coldwater Wastewater Treatment Plant is continually monitored. Phosphates in the water are most noticed in Craig Lake and least noticed in Morrison Lake. Most algae are safe to swim in. However, the blue/green algae is a bacterium which can be harmful to small children and animals. Google Michigan.gov for algae bloom. Samples can be given to them. Lake water levels have been very low this year, causing issues especially in channels. The dams are open. Contact Drain Commissioner, Mike Hardt for more information.

**Marine Patrol**: as given to Tom,

 North Chain Activity: 103.75 hours patrolled, 63 contacts, 61 warnings, 4 citations and 11 complaints.

**Additional comments:** Sunken Islands warning sign is up near Narrows bridge. An additional sign will be put up at the other end of the Channel with the property owner’s permission.

**Next Meeting Date: May 2026 at Occasions Center, 430 W. Chicago St., Coldwater, MI**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Carolyn Morrison, Secretary**

**Facebook Group: North Chain Lake Association**

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